



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

From: Winnay Wemigwase

Date: May 17th and 18th, 2012

Re: 2012 Tribal Economic Development Forum - Lansing, Michigan

In my continued efforts to become more knowledgeable about non-gaming economic development, I have been keeping an eye out for training, events and other opportunities that focus on what tribes can do, and are doing, to accomplish economic diversification for our communities. I was excited to see that a free, two-day gathering was taking place in Lansing, Michigan (close to home) on May 17th and 18th, 2012.

The 2012 Tribal Economic Development Forum was hosted by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and held at the Radisson hotel, just blocks away from the State Capitol building in Lansing. The agenda was packed with knowledgeable presenters that provided all of the attendees with the most current information:

Thursday, May 17th Agenda -

8:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m. Welcome: Terri Fitzpatrick, Vice President Tribal Business Development, Michigan Economic Development Corporation(MEDC)

Opening prayer: Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan

8:45 a.m.–9 a.m. Opening remarks: Mike Finney, President and CEO, MEDC

9 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Tourism and Travel: Dave Lorenz, Manager, Pure Michigan/Travel Michigan, MEDC

9:30 a.m.–10 a.m. Planning for Sustainable Tribal Cooperative Economies: Eric Trevan, President and CEO, Anishnabe Development

10 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Performing Due Diligence on Business Proposals:

R. Lance Boldrey, Member, Dykema Gossett PLLC

Courtney Kissel, Associate, Dykema Gossett PLLC

10:45 a.m.–12 p.m. Project Financing Panel–Moderator, Tom Durkee, Tribal Business Development Project Manager, MEDC

Leveraging Federal Loan Guarantee Program with New Market Tax Credits in Indian Country: Marvin Adams, President, National Capital LLC

Native Community Development Financial Institutions: Lisa McComb, Executive Director, Northern Shores Loan Fund, a native certified CDFI

MEDC Access to Capital and Financing Preparation: Eric Hanna, Manager, Debt Capital Programs, MEDC

12 p.m.–1 p.m. Lunch Keynote Speaker: Kip Ritchie, COO, Forest County Potawatomi

1 p.m.–2:45 p.m. Contracting Panel–Moderator, Terri Fitzpatrick

Pure Michigan Business Connect and Economic Gardening: Vince Nystrom, Vice President, Strategic Accounts, MEDC

MEDC Tribal Contracting Strategy and Preparing for the Markets: Sean Carlson, Principal, Procurement Consulting Group

SBA 8(a) Business Development Program: Tom Vargo, Business Development Specialist 8(a), Small Business Administration

Successful Teaming, Partnering, and Other Business Relationships in Government Contracting: Michelle Kantor, Member, McDonald Hopkins LLC

3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Native Am. Contractors Association: Dennis Worden, Legislative Director

3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. MI Tribes Panel Eco. Dev. Projects–Moderator, Frank Ettawageshik Tony Mancilla, Tribal Attorney, Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community

Troy Clay, President and CEO, Mno Bmadsen, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tony Day, General Manager, Skasge Power LLC, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

Friday, May 18th Agenda -

8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Michigan Economic Development Corporation Overview:

Tino Breithaupt, Manager, Michigan Retention and Growth, MEDC

9:00 a.m. Agri-Business: Jim Byrum, President, Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)

9:30 a.m.–10 a.m. Aquaculture: Dan Vogler, President, Michigan Aquaculture Association

10:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m. Native Energy Panel-Moderator, Mark Clevey

Wind: Mark Clevey, Manager, Renewable Energy Programs, MI Energy Office, MEDC

Solar: Brad Clark, Tech Dev Manager, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, MEDC

Bio Energy: Nadia Abunasser, Ph.D., Tech Dev Manager Bioenergy, MEDC

Energy Efficiency: Laura James, Michigan Saves Operations Manager

11:45 a.m. Lunch Speaker:

Gwen Carr, Program Director, First American Capital Corp., Tribal PTAC

Overall, this event was a huge learning experience for me. I feel that the attendees were presented with information that was extremely pertinent to tribes, our previous knowledge base, topics that we need to know more about and resources specifically aimed at tribal communities in Michigan. We, as Council, are very committed to diversifying our economic ventures to things that are both gaming-related and non-gaming related. Attending this forum was well worth the time and effort because we were able to network, ask questions and learn about/from other tribes who are trying to do the same things. In addition, the non-native presenters were genuinely interested in collaborating with tribes and in assisting us with our goals; because with today's economy, we, as Michiganders, are in this together. I look forward to utilizing the knowledge I gained at the forum and sharing the contacts I made with the rest of Council and our community. As always, I am grateful to my people for allowing me the opportunity to participate in activities like this. Chi-miigwech.